

Application No.: 10/032978

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Amendments to Claims

Amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

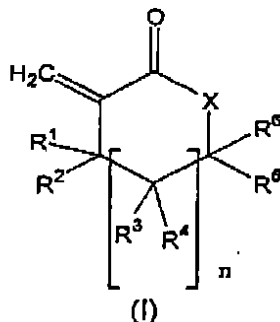
1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising,

(a) an α -methylene ~~lact(ene)(am)~~ lactone copolymer comprising,

- (i) at least one α -methylene ~~lact(ene)(am)~~ lactone monomer of Formula I, and
- (ii) ~~at least one other free radically copolymerizable monomer~~ methymethacrylate, and

(b) a filler from 10 to 80 weight percent of a filler selected from the group consisting of alumina trihydrate, aluminum oxide, barium sulfate, calcium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, glass bubbles, glass microspheres, quartz, silica, and ceramic microspheres, based on the total weight of the copolymer and the filler,

provided that no more than 95 mole percent and not less than 1 mole percent of repeat units in said α -methylene ~~lact(ene)(am)~~ lactone copolymer are derived from said α -methylene ~~lact(ene)(am)~~ lactone monomer,



wherein:

n is 0, 1 or 2;

X is -O- or -NR⁹-; and

R¹, R², R⁵, and R⁶, each of R³ and each of R⁴, are independently hydrogen, a functional group, hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl or CH₃, and R⁹ is a hydrocarbyl or a substituted hydrocarbyl.

2. Cancelled

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3. ~~The~~A composition comprising the ~~α -methylene lact(ene)(am)-copolymer~~ of Claim 1 and ~~from 5% to 80% by weight of a filler, wherein said filler is present between 40 and 60% by weight,~~ based on the total weight of said copolymer and said filler.

4. Cancelled

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ composition comprising the ~~α -methylene lact(ene)(am)-copolymer~~ of Claim 1 and ~~at least 10% by weight of wherein the filler is alumina trihydrate based on the total weight of said copolymer and said alumina trihydrate.~~

6. Cancelled

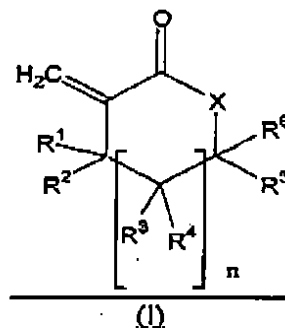
7. Cancelled

8. Cancelled

9. Cancelled

10. Cancelled

11. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising, at least one α -methylene lact(ene)(am)-~~lactone, of Formula I,~~ a free-radically copolymerizable ~~monomer methylmethacrylate,~~ an inorganic filler, and optionally a free radical initiator



wherein:

n is 0,

X is -O-; and

R¹, R², R⁵, and R⁶, are independently hydrogen or CH₃.

12. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein the copolymer is crosslinked.

13. Cancelled

14. (Original) The composition of Claim 3 wherein the copolymer is crosslinked.

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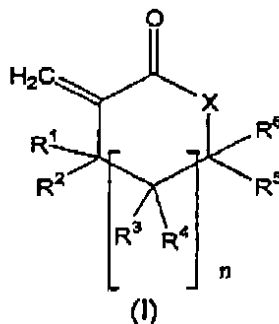
15. Cancelled
16. (Original) The composition of Claim 5 wherein the copolymer is crosslinked.
17. Cancelled
18. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 in the form of a sheet or a molded article.
19. Cancelled
20. (Original) The composition of Claim 3 in the form of a sheet or a molded article.
21. Cancelled
22. (Original) The composition of Claim 5 in the form of a sheet or a molded article.
23. Cancelled
24. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 in the form of a solid surface material used as a decorative surface.
25. Cancelled
26. (Original) The composition of Claim 3 in the form of a solid surface material used as a decorative surface.
27. Cancelled
28. (Original) The composition of Claim 5 in the form of a solid surface material used as a decorative surface.
29. Cancelled
30. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 in the form of a kitchen top, counter top, table top, bathroom counter top, a wall covering, a kitchen sink, a bathroom sink, or a bathtub.
31. Cancelled
32. (Original) The composition of Claim 3 in the form of a kitchen top, counter top, table top, bathroom counter top, a wall covering, a kitchen sink, a bathroom sink, or a bathtub.
33. Cancelled
34. (Original) The composition of Claim 5 in the form of a kitchen top, counter top, table top, bathroom counter top, a wall covering, a kitchen sink, a bathroom sink, or a bathtub.

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35. Cancelled
36. (Original) A solid surface material exhibiting antimicrobial effectiveness, the solid surface material comprising the composition of Claim 1.
37. Cancelled
38. (Original) A solid surface material exhibiting antimicrobial effectiveness, the solid surface material comprising the composition of Claim 3.
39. Cancelled
40. (Original) A solid surface material exhibiting antimicrobial effectiveness, the solid surface material comprising the composition of Claim 5.
41. Cancelled
42. (Currently Amended) A process for manufacturing a plastic article, comprising the step of [[]]contacting
- (a) ~~one or more acrylate or methacrylate ester~~ methacrylate,
- (b) one or more α -methylene ~~lact(ene)(am)~~ lactone monomers of Formula I,



wherein:

n is 0, ~~1~~ or 2;

X is $-O-$ or $-NR^0-$; and

R^1 , R^2 , R^5 , and R^6 , ~~each of R^3 and each of R^4~~ , are independently hydrogen, a functional group, hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl or CH_3 , and

~~R^0 is a hydrocarbyl or a substituted hydrocarbyl~~

- (c) one or more free radical initiators,
- (d) at least 10 weight percent of a filler based on total weight of the said ~~homopolymer or copolymer~~ and the filler,
- (e) optionally one or more homopolymers or copolymers of acrylate and/or methacrylate esters,

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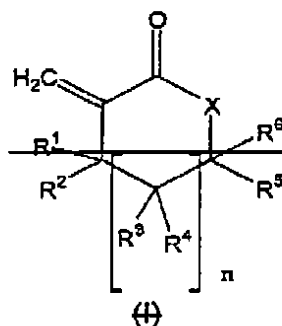
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said contacting being at a temperature sufficient to cause said one or more free radical initiators to generate free radicals; and wherein the α -methylene lact(ene)(am) lactone monomer of Formula I is at least 1 mole percent of the total composition of (a) and (b).

43. (Currently Amended) ~~A process for manufacturing a plastic article, comprising the step of contacting~~

~~(a) — one or more acrylate or methacrylate esters,~~

~~(b) — one or more α -methylene lact(ene)(am) monomers of Formula I,~~



wherein:

~~n is 0, 1 or 2;~~

~~X is —O— or —NR⁶—; and~~

~~R¹, R², R⁵, R⁶, each of R³ and each of R⁴, are independently hydrogen, a functional group, hydrocarbyl or substituted hydrocarbyl, and R⁶ is a hydrocarbyl or a substituted hydrocarbyl~~

~~(c) — at least one free radical initiator~~

~~(d) — at least 10 weight percent of alumina trihydrate based on total weight of the said homopolymer or copolymer and alumina trihydrate,~~

~~(e) — optionally one or more homopolymers or copolymers of acrylate and/or methacrylate esters,~~

~~said contacting being at a temperature sufficient to cause said free radical initiator to generate free radicals; and wherein the α -methylene lact(ene)(am) monomers of Formula I is at least 1 mole percent of the total composition of (a) and (b). The process of claim 42 wherein the filler is alumina trihydrate.~~

44. Cancelled

45. Cancelled